

K-214

Primary School No. 3  
Near Kennedyville  
c. 1840

In the 19th century, trustees were elected for each school district in Kent County. Their appointment gave them complete authority over their districts. It was with that authority that, in 1840, Francis Wallis, Benjamin Parott and Daniel Jones purchased 0.88 acres from William Maxwell, whereupon School No. 3 was built that year.<sup>1</sup>

The building which was constructed was five bays long and faced north. It had a central bay and no roof penetrations. Its walls were laid in common bond with plain jack arches over the openings. There was a three-course corbeled cornice. The interior was divided into a central passage and two rooms, with chimneys located in the center partitions. In form and plan, the building appeared residential, but in that respect the location of the chimneys would have been uncommon for the day. Their placement however, could perhaps be seen as a forerunner of post Civil War residential styles.

Apparently the building served the needs of the community for a relatively short period of time. In 1868, according to the provision in the original deed of 1840, it reverted back to the Maxwell family, as it was no longer being used as a school.<sup>2</sup> It remained part of the original Maxwell farm until 1970, after which time it was rehabilitated into a residence.<sup>3</sup>

It is a rare survival and example of a mid-19th century school. The only other school of the early 19th century to survive in the County is the

old Millington Academy.

1. Land Records, Lib. JNG 7, fol. 175.
2. Land Records, Lib. JKH 8, fol. 147.
3. Land Records, Lib. EHP 34, fol. 245.

OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL #3  
SECOND ELECTION DISTRICT  
Kennedyville, Maryland  
(ca 1840)

This little five-bay, 1½ story brick structure housed one of the earliest public schools in Kent County. In 1840 Francis Wallis, Benjamin Parrott, and Daniel Jones as trustees of Primary School District number three in the Second Election District purchased about .9 of an acre of land from William Maxwell for the purpose of constructing a primary school. Architectural evidence indicates that the building was constructed soon thereafter. The purchase deed stipulated that if the land with any building subsequently constructed ever be used for purpose other than a school or a house of worship, ownership would revert back to the Maxwell Family. In 1860 the building was evidently in use, but in 1868 the building was sold and converted into a residence.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST K - 214

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL # 3  
 HISTORIC SECOND ELECTION DISTRICT  
 AND/OR COMMON Leonard Residence

**2 LOCATION** South side, Route 298, ½ mile from  
 STREET & NUMBER junction with Rt. 448

CITY, TOWN Kennedyville XX VICINITY OF 1st  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Kent  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Harvey Leonard Telephone #:  
 STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Kennedyville XX VICINITY OF STATE, zip code  
 Maryland 21645

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 34  
 Folio #: 254

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Chestertown, Maryland STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
 Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent County

DATE 1968 ☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN Annapolis, Maryland 21401 STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

K-214

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Primary School on Route 298 sits on a small lot that is surrounded by woodlands and fields. The building faces north separated from the road by an open lawn.

The brick structure is five bays long on the north or front facade, but has only three bays on the south. Its gable roof is very steep and finished with a plain box cornice and new verge boards. There is an entry in the center bay of the north facade, a door in the eastern bay of the south facade, and a former door in the south side of the west gable. Originally there were two interior brick chimneys protruding from the roof at the ridge, dividing the building into three rooms or two rooms and a wide central hall. One of these chimneys has been removed and a new exterior chimney constructed on the west gable; this chimney partially obscures the gable door which has been bricked in.

Doors and 6 over 6 window sash are all new. Probably 9 over 6 sash windows were originally used with smaller windows in the attic gables. In a recent remodeling, a three bay shed dormer was constructed on the rear slope of the roof; along with a small shed addition on the rear.

A three step corbelled cornice is the only decoration on this simple building. The brick walls are laid in common bond and measure  $1 \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ " by  $4 \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ " by  $8 \frac{1}{8} - \frac{1}{4}$ ". There is a great variety in color and the bricks are irregularly shaped. Three courses measure  $7 \frac{1}{2}$ " to  $7 \frac{3}{4}$ ", the yellowish mortar being untooled.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Primary School District #3

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This little brick structure housed one of the earliest public schools in Kent County. In 1840 Francis Wallis, Benjamin Parrott, and Daniel Jones as trustees of Primary School District number three in the Second Election District purchased about .9 of an acre of land from William Maxwell for the purpose of constructing a primary school. Architectural evidence indicates that the building was constructed soon thereafter. The purchase deed stipulated that if the land with any building subsequently constructed ever be used for purpose other than a school or a house of worship, ownership would revert back to the Maxwell Family. In 1860 the building was evidently in use, but by 1868 Francis and James Maxwell were selling the lot with improvements to a James Laverty who apparently lived in the building for a number of years.

In the late 1960's the old building was deteriorated and almost in ruins. It was remodeled and converted into a residence by the present owner.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## Chain of Title

## OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Land Records of  
Kent CountyTransactionEHP 34  
245TO: Harvey C. Leonard  
FROM: Springdale Farms, Inc.  
DATE: March 2, 1970

"School House Lot", 0.887 acres

WHG 70  
508TO: Springdale Farms, Inc.  
FROM: Beatrice Dunlap, et al  
DATE: July 5, 1961

Two plats mentioned in this deed; one for the farm in the plat book and one in the deed book for the Schoolhouse lot.

RAS 6  
545TO: Beatrice Dunlap, et al  
FROM: Harry W. Dunlap  
DATE: June 2, 1931

Lot adjacent to the farm of 3 roads, 36½ perches.

SGF 2  
303TO: Lewis C. Justis, Jr.  
FROM: Jane Laverty, et al  
DATE: February 17, 1894

For \$265, the lot formerly a part of the Hurtt Farm.

JKH 8  
147TO: James Laverty  
FROM: Frances E. & James H. Maxwell  
DATE: December 1, 1868

Frances & James were the only heirs of Mr. & Mrs. William Maxwell. In 1894, they had sold this parcel to Francis S. Wallis, Benjamin Parrott, and Daniel Jones, trustees of Primary School District #3 in the Second Election District for the purpose of building a school. The deed contained the




provision that if the land ceased being used as a schoolhouse, or a house of worship, its ownership would revert back to the Maxwell family. The Board of School Commissioners were successors and the building was abandoned as a school.

JNG 7  
175

TO: Trustees of Primary School #3  
FROM: William & Wilhelmina Maxwell  
DATE: June 2, 1840

For \$55.00

1. STATE      Maryland COUNTY     Kent TOWN   Kennedyville    VICINITY STREET NO. Rt. 298, ¼ mile west of Rt 448, (south)  ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER   Springdale Farms Inc. PRESENT USE       vacant WALL CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES    one		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY           K-214	
		2. NAME    Springdale Brick School  DATE OR PERIOD    19th century STYLE           Federal ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		OPEN TO PUBLIC    no	
<p>At one time this little brick building was used as a school. Presently it is part of Springdale Farm and is vacant and in ruins. Only the shell of the structure remains, being five bays long and one bay deep. It is one full story with steeply pitched "A" roof and it has a three brick (stepped) cornice. The door of the north facade is located in the center bay. Originally the sash were 9/6. The brick is laid in common bond and there appears to have been two chimneys separating the structure into three rooms, which pierced the roof in the center of the building. A window lights the attic from each gable.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March, 1969 — bldg under process of remodeling</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    yes    Interior    very bad    Exterior    poor			
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div>             6. LOCATION MAP (<i>Plan Optional</i>)           </div> </div>		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES ( <i>Author, Title, Pages</i> ) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <div style="margin-top: 10px;">Michael Bourne</div>  DATE OF RECORD    October, 1968	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE *md*  
 COUNTY *Kent*  
 TOWN *Kennedyville* VICINITY  
 STREET NO. *Rt 298, 1/4 mile west of Rt 448, south side*  
 ORIGINAL OWNER  
 ORIGINAL USE *dwellings + school*  
 PRESENT OWNER *Springdale Farms Inc.*  
 PRESENT USE *vacant*  
 WALL CONSTRUCTION *brick*  
 NO. OF STORIES *1*

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
INVENTORY

*K-214*

2. NAME *Springdale*  
*(Brick School)*  
 DATE OR PERIOD *19th Cent.*  
 STYLE *Federal*  
 ARCHITECT  
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC *NO*

This little building is a 5 bay long brick structure  
 which is 1 story high. It has a 3 bay stepped cornice  
 is 1 room deep - ~~had~~ has center door

$\frac{9}{16}$  s-h -

<sup>chimneys</sup>  
 probably had 2 fireplaces - 2 or 3 room,  
 remains of 1 fireplace + when chimneys went thru  
 roof -

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE

Endangered

*yes*

Interior

*poor*

Exterior

*poor*



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

*Michael Bourne*

DATE OF RECORD

*Oct, 1968*

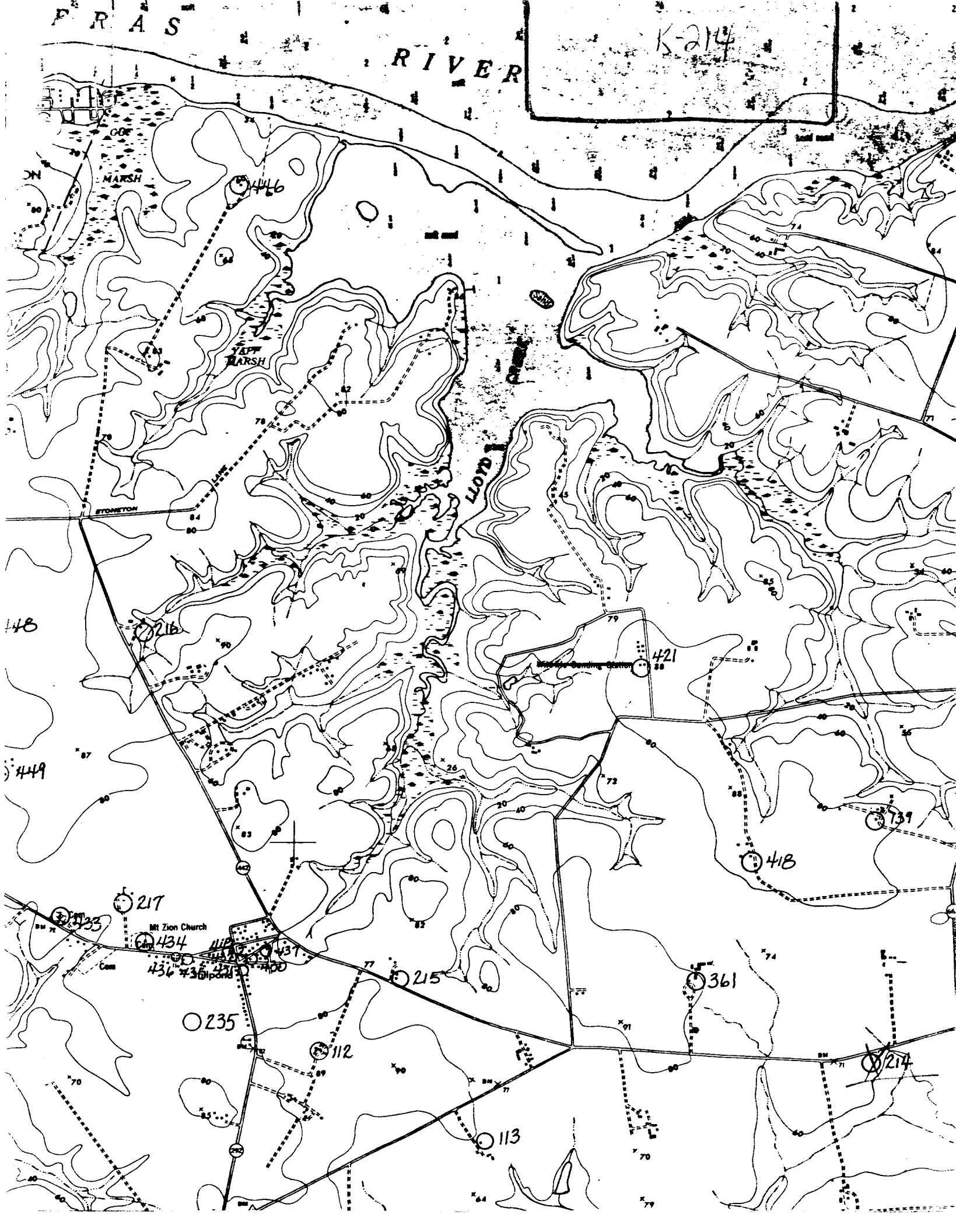
At one time this little brick building was used as a school. Presently it is part of Springdale Farm and is vacant and in ruins. Only the shell of the structure remains, being five bays long and one bay deep. It is one full story with steeply pitched "A" roof and it has a three brick (stepped) cornice. The door of the north facade is located: the center bay. Originally the sash were 9/6. The brick is laid in common bond and there appears to have been two fireplaces, separating the structure into three rooms, which pierced the roof in the center of the building. A window lights the attic from each gable.

At one time this little brick building was used as a school. Presently it is ~~not~~ part of Springdale Farm and is vacant and in ruins. Only the shell of the structure remains, being 5 bays long and one bay deep. It is one full story with steeply pitched "A" roof and it has a 3 brick (stepped) cornice. The door of the main facade is located in the center bay. Originally the doors were  $\frac{9}{16}$ . The brick is laid in common bond and there appears to have been 2 fireplaces, separating the structure into 3 rooms, which pierced the roof in the center of the building. A window lights the attic from each gable.

R A S

RIVER

K-214





K-214

Old Primary School #3

View to East

M.L. Fritz

6/1980

K-214

J. Tyler Campbell  
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND  
MAY 21 1980

Primary School No. 3  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
LIBRARY

K-214 Springdale Brick School (Kennedyville)